

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 IGA-02 COME-00

DRC-01 /165 W

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R 242329Z MJT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4003

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3985

1. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH FONMIN BATRES ON OCTOBER 23. BATRES SAID THAT HE IS NOT AS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AS IS THE PRESS. HE SUMMARIZED THE TALKS TO DATE AS "PROCEEDING ON AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS." HE REMARKED THAT HE FELT CONFIDENT OF EVENTUAL SUCCESS, BUT LAMENTED THE ATTITUDE OF THE DIE-HARDS WHO INSIST ON A QUICK, DECISIVE AND OVERWHELMINGLY PRO-HONDURAN SOLUTION. HE SAID THAT THE TALKS MUST BE CONTINUED IN A DELIBERATE AND CAUTIOUS FASHION BUT THAT HE IS CONFRONTED BY THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- (A) BASIC MISTRUST OF HONDURANS FOR ANYTHING SALVADORAN;
- (B) THE NATURAL OPPOSITION OF OUSTED POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS; AND
- (C) IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS BY RADIO COMMENTATORS AND COLUMNISTS.

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2. BATRES COMMENTED THAT DURING THE TALKS THE QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED SALVADORAN PURCHASE OF JETS CAME UP. HE SAID HE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE GOES DELEGATION THAT THE INTENDED JET PURCHASE HAD NO BELLICOSE END IN VIEW. BATRES STATED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED BY THE EXPLANATION AND RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE GOES DELEGATION TO REPEAT THEIR STATEMENT IN HONDURAS. LATER THAT AFTERNOON BATRES SAID HE WAS SHOCKED TO FIND OUT THAT THE GOES DELEGATION HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR PERMISSION.
SANCHEZ

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEGUCI04003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SANCHEZ
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731063/aaaajxwt.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 TEGUCIGALPA 3985
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980311
Subject: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005